AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete paragraph [0014] and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0014] The present invention provides peptides containing 10 to 19 amino acidic residues, of general formula (I) (unless otherwise specified, the one-letter amino acid code is used):

Ac-C-x1-PYI-x2-x3-Y-NH2 (SEQ ID NO: 1)

(I)

wherein Ac- represents an acetyl residue, --NH2 a carboxamido terminus, x1 and x3, which can be the same or different, are selected from the group consisting of hydrophobic residues Phe, Tyr, 1Nal (L-beta-1-naphthyl-alanine), 2Nal (L-beta-2-naphthyl-alanine), Cha (L-beta-cyclohexyl-alanine), x2 is a spacer containing 2 to 12 amino acidic residues.

Please delete paragraph [0015], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0015] According to preferred embodiments, the spacer x2 is selected from 1) the sequence 16-27 of RANTES (the reference sequence is found-in: T J Schall et al. A human T cell-specific molecule is a member of a new gene family. J. Immunol. 141, 1018-1025, 1988), 2) the sequence 16-27 of RANTES in which 1 to 3 amino acidic residues are replaced with different natural or non natural amino acids of L or D configuration, 3) the sequence 16-27 of RANTES in which any group of at least two, preferably at least three and no more than nine residues, either consecutive or non consecutive, is

removed. More preferably, x2 is selected from ARPLPR-X-HIKEYF (SEQ ID NO: 2) ARPLPR-X-HIKEY1Nal (SEQ ID NO: 3), ARPLPR-X-HIKEY2Nal (SEQ ID NO: 4), ARPLPR-X-HIKEYCha (SEQ ID NO: 5), ARPLPR-X-HIF (SEQ ID NO: 6), ARPLPR-X-HYF (SEQ ID NO: 7), ARPLPR-X-EYF (SEQ ID NO: 8), ARPLPRKEYF (SEQ ID NO: 9), ARPLPIKEYF (SEQ ID NO: 10), ARP-X-HIKEYF (SEQ ID NO: 11), wherein X is Ala or Pro.

Please delete paragraph [0021], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0021] The following sequences are particularly preferred:

Ac-CF	PYI	ARPLPRAHIKEYF	Y	-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 12)
Ac-CF	PYI	ARPLPRPHIKEYF	Y	-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 13)
Ac-C1Nal	PYI	ARPLPRAHIKEYF	Y	-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 14)
Ac-C2Nal	PYI	ARPLPRAHIKEYF	Y	-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 15)
Ac-CCha	PYI	ARPLPRAHIKEYF	Y	-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 16)
Ac-CF	PYI	ARPLPRPHIKEY1Nal	Y	-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 17)
Ac-CF	PYI	ARPLPRPHIKEY2Nal	Y	-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 18)
Ac-CF	PYI	ARPLPRPHIKEYCha	Y	-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 19)
Ac-CF	PYI	ARPLPRAHI---F	Y	-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 20)
Ac-CF	PYI	ARPLPRAH---YF	Y	-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 21)

Ac-CF (SEQ ID NO: 22)	PYI	ARPLPRA---EYF	Y	-nh2
Ac-CF (SEQ ID NO: 23)	PYI	ARPLPR---KEYF	Y	-nh2
Ac-CF (SEQ ID NO: 24)	PYI	ARPLP---IKEYF	Y	-nh2
Ac-CF (SEQ ID NO: 25)	PYI	ARP---AHIKEYF	Y	-nh2
Ac-CF (SEQ ID NO: 26)	PYI	A---PRAHIKEYF	Y	-nh2

Please delete paragraph [0025], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0025] ID_{50} values (mean of three independent experiments, expressed as micromolar values) obtained in a HIV-1 inhibition assay, are reported in Table 1:

MW Pept. (uma)	ID50 Sequence (μ.M)	SEQ ID NO:			
1 4852	Ac-CF 2.5	AYI	ARPLPRAHIKEYF 27	Y	-nh2
2 4768	2HN-CF 6.0	PYI	ARPLPRAHIKEYF 28	Y	-nh2
3 0.2	RANTES (des 1-8)				
A 4852	Ac-CF 0.5	PYI	ARPLPRAHIKEYF 12	Y	-nh2
B 4902	Ac-CF 0.6	PYI	ARPLPRPHIKEYF 13	Y	-nh2

C 5000	Ac-C1Nal 1.5	PYI ARPLPRAHIKEYF 14	Y	-nh2	
D 5000	Ac-C2Nal 1.7	PYI ARPLPRAHIKEYF 15	Y	-nh2	
E 4916	Ac-Ccha 0.9	PYI ARPLPRAHIKEYF 16	Y	-nh2	
F 5004	Ac-CF 0.44	PYI ARPLPRPHIKEY1Nal 17	Y	-nh2	
G 5004	Ac-CF 0.88	PYI ARPLPRPHIKEY2Nal 18	Y	-nh2	
H 4916	Ac-CF 0.51	PYI ARPLPRPHIKEYCha 19	Y	-nh2	
I 4012	Ac-CF 1.9	PYI ARPLPRAHI---F 20	Y	-nh2	
L 4112	Ac-CF 0.87	PYI ARPLPRAH---YF 21	Y	-nh2	
M 4096	Ac-CF 0.68	PYI ARPLPRA---EYF 22	Y	-nh2	
N 4210	Ac-CF 0.78	PYI ARPLPR---KEYF 23	Y	-nh2	
O 4124	Ac-CF 0.44	PYI ARPLP---IKEYF 24	Y	-nh2	
P 4120	Ac-CF 0.63	PYI ARP---AHIKEYF 25	Y	-nh2	
Q 4120	Ac-CF 1.9	PYI A---PRAHIKEYF 26	Y	-nh2	

Please delete paragraph [0028], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0028] presence of the C-x1-PYI (SEQ ID NO: 29) group and of x3-Y terminal residues and the possibility to modify the "linker" region with respect to the number and type of amino acids;

Please delete paragraph [0035], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0035] Synthesis of the peptide Ac-Cys-Phe-Pro-Tyr-Ile-Ala-Arg-Pro-Leu-Pro-Arg-Ala-His-Ile-Lys-Glu-Tyr-Phe-Tyr-NH2 (SEQ ID NO: 12).

Please delete paragraph [0040], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0040] Ac-CFPYIARPLPRAHIKEYFY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 12), in which

Please delete paragraph [0041], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0041] x1=F, x2=ARPLPRAHIKEY (SEQ ID NO: 30), x3=F

Please delete paragraph [0042], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0042] Ac-CFPYIARPLPRPHIKEYFY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 13), in which

Please delete paragraph [0043], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0043] x1=F, x2=ARPLPRPHIKEY (SEQ ID NO: 31), x3=F

Please delete paragraph [0044], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0044] Ac-C1Nal PYIARPLPRAHIKEYFY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 14), in which

Please delete paragraph [0045], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0045] x1=1Nal, x2=ARPLPRAHIKEY (SEQ ID NO: 30), x3=F

Please delete paragraph [0046], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0046] Ac-C2Nal PYIARPLPRAHIKEYFY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 15), in which

Please delete paragraph [0047], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0047] x1=2Nal, x2=ARPLPRAHIKEY (SEQ ID NO: 30), x3=F

Please delete paragraph [0048], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0048] Ac-CChaPYIARPLPRAHIKEYFY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 16), in which

Please delete paragraph [0049], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0049] x1=Cha, x2=ARPLPRAHIKEY (SEQ ID NO: 30), x3=F

Please delete paragraph [0050], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0050] Ac-CFPYIARPLPRPHIKEY1NalY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 17), in which

Please delete paragraph [0051], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0051] x1=F, x2=ARPLPRPHIKEY (SEQ ID NO: 31), x3=1Nal

Please delete paragraph [0052], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0052] Ac-CFPYIARPLPRPHIKEY2NalY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 18), in which

Please delete paragraph [0053], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0053] x1=F, x2=ARPLPRPHIKEY (SEQ ID NO: 31), x3=2Nal

Please delete paragraph [0054], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0054] Ac-CFPYIARPLPRPHIKEYChaY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 19), in which

Please delete paragraph [0055], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0055] x1=F, x2=ARPLPRPHIKEY (SEQ ID NO: 31), x3=Cha

Please delete paragraph [0056], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0056] Ac-CFPYIARPLPRAHIFY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 20), in which x1=F, x2=ARPLPRAHI (SEQ ID NO: 32), x3=F

Please delete paragraph [0057], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0057] Ac-CFPYIARPLPRAHYFY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 21), in which x1=F, x2=ARPLPRAHY (SEQ ID NO: 33), x3=F

Please delete paragraph [0058], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0058] Ac-CFPYIARPLPRAEYFY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 22), in which x1=F, x2=ARPLPRAEY (SEQ ID NO: 34), x3=F

Please delete paragraph [0059], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0059] Ac-CFPYIARPLPRKEYFY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 23), in which x1=F, x2=ARPLPRKEY (SEQ ID NO: 35), x3=F

Please delete paragraph [0060], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0060] Ac-CFPYIARPLPIKEYFY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 24), in which x1=F, x2=ARPLPIKEY (SEQ ID NO: 36), x3=F

Please delete paragraph [0061], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0061] Ac-CFPYIARPAHIKEYFY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 25), in which x1=F, x2=ARPAHIKEY (SEQ ID NO: 37), x3=F

Please delete paragraph [0062], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0062] Ac-CFPYIAPRAHIKEYFY-nh2 (SEQ ID NO: 26), in which x1=F, x2=APRAHIKEY (SEQ ID NO: 38), x3=F

Please delete paragraph [0063], and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0063] The peptides described in this example were prepared with a procedure similar to that reported in Example 1. The analytical characteristics are shown in Table 2:

Compound	Mw	SEQ ID NO:	Rt
Ac-CFPYIARPLPRPHIKEYFY-nh2	4900	13	(1) 4.10
Ac-C1NalPYIARPLPRAHIKEYFY-nh2	4998	14	(1) 5.70
Ac-C2NalPYIARPLPRAHIKEYFY-nh2	4998	15	(1) 5.87
Ac-CChaPYIARPLPRAHIKEYFY-nh2	4914	16	(1) 5.22
Ac-CFPYIARPLPRPHIKEY1NalY-nh2	4972	17	(2) 9.35
Ac-CFPYIARPLPRPHIKEY2NalY-nh2	4972	18	(2) 9.62
Ac-CFPYIARPLPRPHIKEYChaY-nh2	4884	19	(2) 8.74
Ac-CFPYIARPLPRAHIFY-nh2	4007	20	(2) 9.19

Ac-CFPYIARPLPRAHYFY-nh2		(2)	8.97
4107	21		
Ac-CFPYIARPLPRAEYFY-nh2		(2)	8.30
4091	22		
Ac-CFPYIARPLPRKEYFY-nh2		(2)	8.73
4204	23		
Ac-CFPYIARPLPIKEYFY-nh2		(2)	9.26
4121	24		
Ac-CFPYIARPAHIKEYFY-nh2		(2)	8.54
4115	25		
Ac-CFPYIAPRAHIKEYFY-nh2		(2)	8.71
4115	26		